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 Sports, Page 1B



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VOLUME 30, NUMBER 101

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1999

FIFTY CENTS

Public housing unit destroyed in blaze

Fire apparently started by child playing with lighter

By Michael Heil
 Staff writer

Six occupants residing at a public housing unit escaped as an early morning fire Thursday ripped through the unit, causing extensive damage.

The occupants, two adults

"Let me emphasize again that they were very, very lucky."

Keith Talley
 Granite City fire chief

and four children from two families, were taken to St. Elizabeth Medical Center, where they were released after being treated for smoke inhalation. The fire, apparently set by a 3-year-old playing with a lighter in the living room area, caused an estimated \$30,000 damage and left two firefighters with

See BLAZE, Page 8A



Tim Stephenson photo

Mayor Ron Selph along with Captain Ben Stillwell of the Salvation Army, Bob Turck for SEMC, Dave Dalz from Catholic Charities and Denise Wright from Protestant Welfare stand alongside several hundred gifts donated for the holiday season.

Hundreds of gifts donated

Presents to be distributed to underprivileged children

By Michael Heil
 Staff writer

Granite City's Tuesday night Christmas bash was a gift-giving success. The cost of admission was one wrapped toy or an article of clothing for local charities. The Salvation Army, Catholic

"The work was well worth it because it's going to bring joy to so many youngsters."

Ron Selph
 Mayor

Charities of Granite City, Protestant Welfare and a charitable group from St. Elizabeth Medical Center will distribute the gifts to underprivileged children in the city's gift drive. Hundreds of presents were given to the charities Thursday morning at City

See GIFTS, Page 9A

Village adds new officers

Grant money allows Pontoon Beach to hire two

By Michael Heil
 Staff writer

The Pontoon Beach Police Department will add two officers to the department after the first of the year because of money it will receive from a federal grant. "I'm just overwhelmed

that Pontoon Beach has been awarded the grant," said Police Chief Gary Wallace. "To my knowledge, the application submitted was the first for any type of police grant." The money from the \$150,000 COPS Grant will come from the U.S. Department of Justice COPS Universal Hiring Program

and will partially pay the salary of the two full-time officers. Consequently, the department will be able to upgrade its force from 11 to 13 officers. Pontoon Beach roughly covers 24 miles. With the recent growth of subdivisions and businesses,

See VILLAGE, Page 9A

Auxiliary to provide \$500,000 to center

St. Elizabeth Medical Center to receive \$50,000 per year for the next decade

By Michael Heil
 Staff writer

Flowers, baby gifts and candy, with countless cups of coffee and sandwiches, have provided a generous 10-year pledge of \$500,000 from St. Elizabeth Medical Center

Auxiliary to the medical center.

The 185-member auxiliary, whose president is Shirley Yates, presented the first \$50,000 installment to Ted Ellerman, president and CEO of the medical center,

at the annual auxiliary Christmas party Dec. 9.

In addition to the donation, the auxiliary contributed its last \$25,000 installment of a \$75,000 gift donation to St. Elizabeth Health Foundation. Melvin Wilmsmeyer, chairman of the foundation, received the donation from Yates.

The income from the auxiliary-run coffee and gift shop combined with an annual jewelry sale provides funds to the medical center and foundation. The auxiliary was formed in 1959.



SEMC Community Relations Department photo
 Shirley Yates, St. Elizabeth Medical Center auxiliary president, presents a \$50,000 check to Ted Ellerman, president and CEO of the medical center.

Papa says sales tax jump should be studied

County government looks for new revenue

By Sanford J. Schmidt
 Staff writer

A referendum for a sales tax increase, more than offset by a property tax cut, may be on the November ballot. Madison County Board Chairman Rudy Papa said in his end-of-year speech Wednesday.

"It may be possible to put together a proposal that would include the funding of needed public improvements, some new general fund programs and a reduction in the general fund property tax of significant proportions," Papa told

"This new revenue source will need voter approval, and will require a very intensive public discussion."

Rudy Papa
 Madison County Board chairman

County Board members near the end of Wednesday's regular meeting.

See SALES TAX, Page 10A

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Sunday 44/33	Monday 35/21	Tuesday 30/20	Wednesday 36/22
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Granite City Journal

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Collinsville woman awarded nearly \$2 million in damages

87-year-old woman lost both legs in pedestrian-car accident

By Dennis Grubaugh
Staff writer

An 87-year-old woman from Collinsville was awarded almost \$2 million in damages Thursday for a 1996 pedestrian-car accident that left her with both legs amputated.

The jury verdict in Madison County Circuit Court came after a four-day trial in the courtroom of Chief Associate Judge Randall Bono.

Family members said Anna Belle Crumer suffered brain damage and may not remember or be able to fully understand the significance of Thursday's verdict. She is confined to a wheelchair and has difficulty communicating.

The suit was filed on Crumer's behalf by her sons, Larry and Reggie Crumer of Collinsville, who also are her legal guardians.

The jury arrived at \$2.4 million in damages against the defendant, Steven C. Riddle, 21, also of Collinsville, but reduced the amount by 20 percent because it felt Crumer was partly negligent by wearing dark clothing that night. The

"There's no way he'd ever have that kind of money. We will seek to collect from Gallant (Insurance Co.); I'm not going to seek to destroy this kid's life."

William Gavin
Attorney

final amount was \$1.97 million.

The victim was walking with another son, Robert, along a hilly stretch of Summit Street in Collinsville at 8:06 p.m. Dec. 13, 1996, when they were hit by a northbound 1993 Toyota Camry driven by Riddle. Witnesses said the car was traveling at 40 mph in a 25 mph zone and may have been airborne shortly before hitting the Crumers, who were preparing to cross the street to get from one family member's home to another. Riddle left 90 feet of skid marks that started 52 feet from the point of impact and

continued another 38 feet, police reports said.

Last month, Robert Crumer reached an out-of-court settlement of a separate suit against Riddle.

However, the insurance company representing Riddle refused to settle Anna Belle Crumer's case, her attorney, William Gavin, of Belleville, said. Her injuries were much more severe than her son's.

Riddle's policy through Gallant Insurance Co. provided only \$20,000 in coverage, which right now leaves Riddle liable for the remaining \$1.95 million.

Gavin said he will go after the insurer because it failed to "reasonably protect" its client by refusing the settlement offer.

"There's no way he'd ever have that kind of money," Gavin said. "We will seek to collect from Gallant. I'm not going to seek to destroy this kid's life."

Gavin had asked the jury to return a verdict of more than \$3.57 million, while Riddle's attorney, Donald Schoemaker of Belleville, asked for an amount not to exceed \$750,000.

Riddle was never charged criminally but did receive traffic citations that were later dropped, his attorney said.

Chapman appointed a judge

Alton attorney notified during bout of pneumonia

By Dennis Grubaugh
Staff writer

Attorney Thomas Chapman was recovering from a bout of pneumonia this week when he learned he'd been appointed a judge.

The news, he said, made him feel 100 percent better. Chapman, 32, of Alton, was named late Wednesday as an associate

judge in the 3rd Judicial Circuit, defeating fellow candidate Ralph Mendelsohn of Glen Carbon in a third runoff election.

"I'm very happy about the announcement and looking forward to starting my job in January," Chapman said Thursday morning.

He is a partner in the law firm of Calvo and Mateyka in Granite City and the son

of another prominent jurist, Charles Chapman, a judge on the 5th District Appellate Court in Mount Vernon. Thomas Chapman will inherit the job of Associate Judge Wendell Durr of Edwardsville, who is retiring at year's end.

For weeks now, Chapman and Mendelsohn have been tied in the balloting of eight circuit judges. The subsequent appointment of Ann Callis to fill the circuit court vacancy left by the death last month of Lawrence Keshner brought the vote total back to nine.

The vote is conducted in secret, so there is no way to know if Callis cast a deciding vote or if other judges may have changed their votes, court officials said.

Chapman will become the youngest judge in the circuit. Most of his experience is with civil cases. He has worked the last five years

with the Calvo firm and was at the Thomas Lakin law firm in Wood River for more than two years before that.

He must now go about disposing of his remaining cases before his swearing-in, which is expected the first week of January.

"As it turns out, I had several big cases this year that are now wrapping up which was by accident and not design," he said.

Chapman moved to Alton about seven years ago. He and his wife, Melissa, have two sons, Samuel, 4, and Silas, 1.

In related judicial news Thursday, Bond County State's Attorney John Knight, a Democrat, officially threw his hat into the ring for the March 21 election, where he will run for the circuit judgeship to be vacated by John DeLaurenti.

Police blotter

George F. Hubert, 38, of the 1600 block of Maple, Granite City, was charged Thursday with driving under the influence and cited for driving with a revoked license. According to a police report, Hubert was involved in a traffic accident about 10:20 p.m. Thursday in the 2600 block of East 23rd Street. Hubert's 1978 pickup struck a vehicle and carried into a yard. Hubert stated in the report he had consumed "about eight beers." A breathalyzer machine revealed Hubert had a blood alcohol content of .201. The legal limit in Illinois is .08.

John Bruce Fontana, 19, of the 490 block of Oakwood Drive, Troy, was charged Friday with assault, aggravated assault and resisting arrest.

According to a police report, Fontana allegedly was involved in an altercation with a 49-year-old man at Shop & Save shortly after midnight Friday. An officer grabbed Fontana and pulled him from the victim. Afterward, Fontana allegedly raised his fist at the officer and stepped toward him. The officer pulled Fontana to the ground. Fontana resisted arrest while he was being handcuffed.

Anthony A. Brown, 20, of the 1000 block of 3rd Street, Venice, was charged Friday with unlawful possession of cannabis with the intent to deliver.

According to a police report, an officer approached Brown as he sat inside a Buick about 1:15 a.m. Friday in the 3100 block of Nameoki. The report stated that Brown consented to a search for illegal substances. The officer allegedly found in Brown's possession a green leafy substance and \$252 in cash.

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Jailed mother to spend Christmas with child

Grandparent visitation rights dispute put on hold

By Dennis Grubaugh
Staff writer

A mother jailed in a bitter grandparent visitation rights dispute is being released long enough to celebrate Christmas with the child at the heart of the battle.

However, the only way Julie Mehring, 27, of Columbia, will stay out of jail long-term is to comply with court-ordered visitation for the child's paternal grandmother, Madison County Associate Judge Barbara Crowder said at a hearing Wednesday.

Mehring today begins her 28th day in Madison County Jail. Crowder found her in

indirect civil contempt of court and sent her to jail Nov. 17 for refusing a previous order granting visitation rights to the child's grandmother Ella Mehring of Belleville.

On Wednesday, Crowder refused to reverse the contempt ruling, but she did amend it, saying the mother should be with her 7-year-old daughter, Jenna, during the holiday. She ordered that Mehning be released from jail from Dec. 22 to 27.

"It is clearly for the sake of your daughter, having you around for the Christmas holiday," Crowder said. Julie Mehning's attorney, Lance Freezeland, said he would consult with his client to see if she would abide by

the judge's ruling.

Freezeland sought Wednesday's hearing to seek to declare the state's visitation rights statute unconstitutional. He said he believes parents have a fundamental right to raise children as they see fit, free from state interference, so long as the child is not being harmed. Crowder denied his motion, and Freezeland promised to appeal the issue to the 5th District Appellate Court in Mount Vernon.

"With all due respect, you don't have the authority to decide what's in Jenna's best interests," Freezeland told Crowder.

Freezeland said the constitutionality of this and similar statutes could also be decided by a pending U.S. Supreme Court case from Washington state. Arguments will be heard in

January.

To purge herself of the contempt charge and be released from jail on a permanent basis, Mehning must allow the equivalent of seven, five-hour visitation sessions for Ella Mehning.

Julie Mehning was in the process of divorcing Ella Mehning's son, Michael, two years ago when he died of congestive heart failure at age 39. Two months later, in November 1997, Ella Mehning and her husband, Ralph, filed for visitation rights.

Ralph Mehning died last April, leaving Ella Mehning to fight the case through her attorney, Margaret Walsh of Belleville.

Freezeland said Ella Mehning has made no attempt to visit or contact her granddaughter for some time, but Walsh said Julie Mehning has thwarted such attempts.

U.S. Census Bureau accepting applications

By Michael Heil
Staff writer

Help spread the word about census operations in the area. A complete and accurate

census is important to insure that communities receive their fair share of funding for schools, hospitals, child assistance, housing and other programs.

The U.S. Census Bureau is testing and accepting applications for Census enumerators to work in Granite City. Enumerators are census takers. Those working in census 2000 will be paid a competitive wage and will play a role in the country's peacetime effort-the census. Anyone interested, should call 355-7761 or toll free, (888) 325-7733 to receive a testing appointment.

Testing will continue into January. The following is a list of local test sites, along with dates and times for testing

for the month of December:

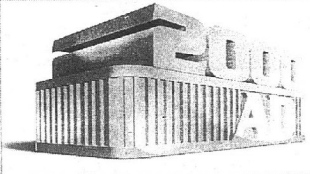
BAC-Granite City Room 311 Dec. 16 and 21 1 to 3 p.m.

Granite City Township Hall 2060 Delmar Ave. Dec. 20, 22 and 29 1 to 3 p.m.

Tri-City YMCA 2001 Edison Ave. Dec. 17 1 to 3 p.m.

Madison County Employment/Training Department 3701 Nameoki Road, Suite 1 Dec. 27 1 to 3 p.m.

Appointments are not necessary. Walk-ins are accepted. Please bring two forms of valid IDs, such as a drivers license and a Social Security card.



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Letters to the Editor

Journal, Attn. Letters,
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Early spring recess means early races

By Dana Heupels

Some Illinoisans might be happy about the General Assembly's plan to adjourn its session next spring in mid-April instead of the customary end of May. It gives lawmakers less time to cause mischief.

But not everyone agrees with the decision. At the urging of state Senate President James "Pat" Philip (R-Wood Dale), legislative leaders have agreed to end the spring session on April 14, six weeks earlier than usual, and 10 weeks before the June 30 deadline that was in effect until only a few years ago.

"The tradition and custom of the General Assembly is that in the even-numbered years, you only do emergency and budget issues, so you don't have the full docket that you have in the other years of the session," said Patty Schuh, Philip's spokeswoman. "So it does offer an opportunity to adjourn a little earlier," she said.

Despite the compressed schedule, legislative leaders made sure the number of session days - about 45 - would be close to the number they normally work during an even-numbered year.

"There might be an earlier adjournment, but it is not a shorter session," said Steve Brown, spokesman for House Speaker Michael Madigan (D-Chicago).

"I don't think anyone can make the case that taxpayers aren't getting their money's worth with the same number of session days," he said.

Cindy Huebner, spokeswoman for Senate Minority Leader Emil Jones, said the Chicago Democrat also believes the compressed session can work.

"He said, 'As long as we can get the work that we need to do, then it's fine. But if things are not done, then there's a concern,'" she said.

But there is at least one dissenter from the political ranks: House Republican Leader Lee Daniels of Elmhurst.

"The concern is, compressing it into that length of time, does that give the legislators enough time to really examine things?" said Gregg Durham, Daniels' spokesman.

"And number two, people who want to be heard on issues - not only in Springfield but at home - won't have as much time to be heard. So that is a concern," Durham said.

That sentiment is echoed by Charles N. Wheeler III, director of the Public Affairs Reporting program at the University of Illinois at Springfield.

"The workload for a legislator isn't measured solely by the time he or she spends here in Springfield. It's not measured by floor sessions or committee hearings. I think part of it is being back in the community, having district office hours, having citizens come in, having the ability to go out and meet with people," he said.

Wheeler, who was a Statehouse reporter for more than 20 years for the Chicago Sun-Times, also believes such a move will further expand the

power of the four legislative leaders: Philip, Madigan, Daniels and Jones.

"It's going to put an enormous time strain on legislators themselves because they will be expected to consider important legislation, including the state budget, in a much reduced space of time," he said.

"I think it works to the leaders' advantage, because when everybody's crushed and you're at a deadline... the budget hits somebody's desk and it's a thousand pages and somebody will stand up and say, 'I don't know what's in here.' But the whole dynamic is, 'It doesn't matter. We have to get out of here.' That plays into the hands of the leaders."

The philosophical force behind the compressed session is Philip's "limited view of government," Wheeler said.

Wheeler also speculates that Madigan, who is state Democratic chairman as well as House speaker, might also see a political advantage in a compressed session.

Incumbent legislators will be hard at work in Springfield, and perhaps giving their challengers more of a chance to defeat them.

If a Democratic challenger beats an incumbent in Chicago, chances are the Democrat will still win in the general election in November, Wheeler said. But moderate suburban Republicans often face challenges from far-right opponents.

Should a right-wing wacko win that nomination," he said, "that could put that district in play for a Democrat to pick it off in a general election. I've always thought Madigan's bottom line was what's good to elect Democrats in the House."

Madigan's spokesman, Brown, said he doesn't believe that scenario was discussed. If that were to happen, he said, Gov. George Ryan and Philip, both Republicans, wouldn't have gone along with the compressed session.

"People who have primaries will have to work a little harder in both their campaign and legislative duties," he said.

As for Daniels' worries about legislators being hard-pressed to research bills before they vote on them, Brown counters that when Daniels' Republicans controlled the House in 1995, they passed 18 bills under the one roll call without any discussion from anyone.

"That's the ultimate hypocrisy for someone like Lee Daniels to raise concerns about members having time to study bills," Brown said.

And Jones' spokeswoman, Huebner, said lawmakers still will be able to respond to the wishes of the people they represent.

"As far as the constituents being in touch, with e-mail and with regular old picking-up-the-phone-and-calling-and-the-letters-we-receive. I don't think that will be a problem."

Dana Heupels is Statehouse editor for Copley Illinois Newspapers. The preceding column, provided by the Illinois Press Association, does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the association or this newspaper.

Opinions



Sound Off

Speak your mind, 618/277-6520



Letters to the editor

Do the right thing

TO THE EDITOR:

I share the view and concerns of forum writer Charles Sullivan regarding the arrogance displayed by Collinsville Library trustee Norm Schiller when he caused the arrest of resident Bob DesPain while DesPain was exercising his statutory right to videotape the Collinsville Library public meeting. Schiller seems to be the front man for Library Board chairman Rich Wallace. Why is it that other board members sit in the background while Schiller makes all the noise?

Sullivan raises an interesting question when he asks "Can a resident's civil rights be violated with impunity by a responsible official." In my view, the answer is regrettably yes. We see examples of that almost everyday in the newspapers and these details of duty then use the legal resources paid for by the taxpayers to defend their violations of law.

Sullivan asks if impartial judge and jury can be convened in the 3rd Judicial District of Illinois in this case. To that I can only say that after a jury complies with the judge's special instruction, the meaning of the words "fair and impartial" could be little more than a wish in the wind.

EVANS NEWSTROM
Collinsville

Educate to prevent

TO THE EDITOR:

I recently had the honor of hosting an Elder Abuse Task Force Hearing with several of my colleagues from the Illinois House to discuss the distressing issue of elder abuse. We heard from many individuals from the Metro East that have witnessed or been a victim of elder abuse.

One of the victims was Margaret Ireland, Ireland lost \$72,000 to an individual who befriended her and offered to drive her around the community for a modest wage. As the hearing continued, we heard that she was clearly not alone.

Elder abuse occurs in many forms-physical, mental and emotional. Too often it goes unreported because the senior is dependent upon the abuser to pay bills, run errands and takes care of them. Many experts believe that only 10 percent of all elder abuse victims report the abuse.

One of the answers to solving this problem is education. It is incumbent upon us as a community to aggressively pursue education opportunities to inform the public, especially our senior citizens, about elder abuse.

Community leaders and institutions, such as banks and grocery stores, need to be alert to warning signs of elder abuse. Families need to know that they should be also on the look out for warning signs. Seniors need to know that alternative care will be provided to them if they report their abuser.

I intend to work during the upcoming legislature to promote education about the issue of elder abuse. I am also open to other suggestions that people

may have on this issue. If I can ever be of any assistance, feel free to call me at 345-2178.
JAY HOFFMAN
State representative
District 112

Do the steps first

TO THE EDITOR:

This letter is in response to the downtown manager's plan to improve the atmosphere on Main Street. I think it is shameful to look at the steps leading into the city hall. Here we are asked to spend \$300,000 on Main Street and we can't even repair the steps leading to a building that is used by hundreds of people every day.

I agree thoroughly with Grider Gwin that by narrowing Main Street would not accomplish anything but chaos and confusion.

You may ask where the \$300,000 figure came from. Twenty percent of \$1.5 million is \$300,000. The city does not need to spend this amount of money on Main Street when the money could be used for more desperately needed projects.

ARVIN BUDBRING
Collinsville

Food Pantry offers thanks

TO THE EDITOR:

On behalf of the O'Fallon Community Food Pantry, its board, volunteers and clients, thank everyone who made the Boy Scout food drive a success. So many people worked hard and donated their time and resources: Volunteers who deliv-

ered and sorted the food; local businesses who donated boxes, bags, food and money; residents who filled the bags with donations; Boy Scout leaders who give so much of themselves; Boy Scouts' families who support their Scout and of course, the Boy Scouts themselves. Because of all your hard work, local families will have some help fighting hunger this winter.

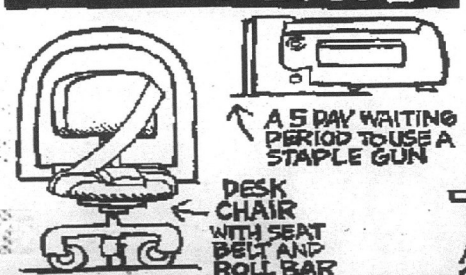
Unfortunately, more and more families need our services. In fact, six months ago, we served an average of 100 families per month, however, that number has risen to 120.

Although the economy is booming and unemployment is record low, the nature of employment has changed. Companies who downsize or hire contract workers, for example, benefit from the same work yet no longer offer secure salaries, paid vacations or benefits. Many of our clients are healthy, working adults who are only able to earn minimum wage with few or no benefits. It is impossible to support a family on such slight means. Our clients are very grateful for our food, without it they would be unable to get by.

In closing, please don't forget about us. Once the holidays have passed and winter melts into spring, the O'Fallon Community Food Pantry will still be open. May the spirit of holiday giving last throughout the year.

Thank you, and happy holidays.
KELLY MCGARRY-LAUER
President
O'Fallon Community Food Pantry

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News

Queen may move south

By Christopher England
Staff writer

The Casino Queen may be headed south down the Mississippi River and could be known as the Cajun Queen soon.

Sources close to the Queen say that plans are being considered to move the boat that docks on the east side of the Mississippi across from the Arch in St. Louis, south to New Orleans. A new boat would be docked where the existing

boat sits and added to the hotel complex that surrounds the East St. Louis side of the river.

Casino Queen representatives could not be reached for comment. However, undisclosed sources say that the move could come as soon as February or March.

The Casino Queen is a dominant financial resource in East St. Louis and the absence of the boat could never be seen without the replacement of another boat.

Great Gift Ideas
by the experts atFRANK'S
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Where Beautiful Things Begin

Time's running out fast. With Christmas less than a week away, last-minute gift shopping is literally that. And if you've been wondering what to get that hard-to-buy-for someone on your gift list, we have some great solutions.

For starters, how about a holiday poinsettia? These beautiful plants are as much a part of Christmas as the Easter Lily is to Easter. Frank's has several available. While red may be the most common color, there are others, such as pink and salmon. They make fantastic accents to any home. And there are a variety of sizes, too.

Norfolk Island Pines are another fabulous gift. These "living Christmas trees" can be used to brighten winter days long after the holiday season ends. They come ready to decorate, or, if you prefer, with the decorations already in place. Like the poinsettias, Norfolk Island Pines also come in a wide array of sizes.

Here's an idea you may not have thought of: baker's racks. These beautiful, functional pieces of furniture can be used for displaying plants, holiday keepsakes or just about anything you desire. They're exquisitely designed with intertwining wrought iron columns, so they're very durable as well as beautiful. Baker's racks are available in sizes ranging from 3 feet to 5 feet tall, in several styles. Be sure to check them out.

A tall, stately silk ficus tree can surely brighten any home for the holidays and beyond. It's loaded with lush, silk leaves and "planted" in a beautiful brass container. One would look great anywhere in any home.

While you're shopping, check out the dazzling array of Christmas candles and candleholders. You'll find them in just about any size and shape you can imagine, from slender tapers to big

3-wick beauties. Or, perhaps a 15"x4" 7-wick holiday loaf candle, complete with its own stand. It's beautiful, it's a fantastic decoration and it's a marvelous conversation piece.

Silk hanging baskets in brilliant decorative containers ought to be considered for gifts also. They can add a touch of the tropics to any home throughout the year. And they need no care.

Christmas baskets are always popular. This year, our assortment includes gold reindeer, traditional wicker in festive gold, silver and "snowflake" white. Pine cone trays, wire glitter and rustic wooden baskets can also be found.

Anyone would welcome a brief respite from the hectic holiday pace. The soothing tranquility of softly cascading water from an indoor water garden offers the ultimate in relaxation. It makes a great gift... you may even want an additional one for yourself!

Our assortment of framed art includes floral and botanical images in dozens of sizes and styles of frames to fit any decor. Our sizes range from 6"x6" to 20"x28".

So, as you can see, it's not too late for gift shopping after all. Head on over to your nearest Frank's store and you're sure to find something that will please just about anyone on your shopping list.

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Obituaries

Bruce Ertwine Sr.

BRUCE M. ERTWINE SR., 74, of Pontoon Beach, died at 2 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14, 1999, at Anderson Hospital in Maryville.

He was born Aug. 12, 1925, in Ringtown, Penn. Mr. Ertwine served in the U. S. Army. He worked as an adjuster for Scott Paper, retiring in 1987. He was a member of Grace Baptist Church, Chester Lodge 238, AF and AM, Scottish Rite Valley of Wilmington, Del.

He is survived by his wife, Doris (Holder) Ertwine Sr.; two sons, Bruce M. Ertwine Jr. of Aston, Penn., and Jeffrey Ertwine of Media, Penn.; a daughter, Carol Ertwine of Medford, N.J.; a brother, Fred Ertwine of Maryland; two sisters, Paulette Wilson of Media, Pa.,

and Betty Ulschaker of Pottstown, Penn., and two grandchildren, Jason Ertwine and Cindi Kay Ertwine.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Maxwell B. and Theresa (Bean) Ertwine.

Werner-Mick Funeral Home in Granite City handled the arrangements.

Memorials may be made to Grace Baptist Church.

Marion Gray

MARION A. "PETE" GRAY, 87, of Granite City, died at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, 1999, at Colonial Care Center in Granite City.

He was born Dec. 1, 1912, in Fruit City, Mo. Mr. Gray was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II. He

worked for P.D. George Paint Company in St. Louis as a receiving clerk, retiring in 1974.

He is survived by three sons, Ed Gray, Jimmie Gray and Larry Gray, all of Granite City; a daughter, Mary Sifton of Granite City; a sister, Nellie Dodd of Visalia, Calif.; 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy J. (Downs) Gray; his parents, Albert and Muri (Everett) Gray; and two brothers, Eugene and Claude Gray.

Visitation will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Sunday at Thomas Memorial Mortuary in Granite City. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Monday at the mortuary with the Rev. Shane Sauter officiating. Burial will be in Sunset Hill Memorial Estates.

Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association.

The Women's Missionary Council. She is survived by a son, James Green of Swansea; three daughters, Betty Johnson of Ridgecrest, Calif., Geraldine Simpson of Granite City and Judith Reese of New York; a sister, Imogene Alger of Oregon; six grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren and eight great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Cecil C. Green, whom she married Jan. 31, 1925, and her parents, John W. and Mildred Cole.

Funeral services were Saturday at City Temple with the Rev. Eugene Cope officiating. Burial was in Sunset Hill Memorial Estates in Edwardsville.

Irwin Chapel in Granite City handled the arrangements. Memorials may be made to City Temple.

Donald Hoff

DONALD ARTHUR HOFF, 85, of Edwardsville, died at 12:10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15, 1999, at Sunbridge Care Center in Edwardsville.

He was born June 22, 1916, in Terre Haute, Ind. Mr. Hoff was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War I. He was a product developer and manager for Boehringer-Ingelheim, retiring in 1984. He was a member of Eden United Church of Christ and the Lion's Club, both in Edwardsville.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret Katherine Hoff, whom he married July 3, 1939. Other survivors include a son Rob Hoff of Edwardsville; a daughter, Marjorie Hoff of Troy and a brother, Roderic Frederick Hoff of Ft. Dodge, Iowa. He was preceded in death by his parents, Otto and Eva (Hoove) Hoff.

Funeral services were Saturday at Irwin-Scott Chapel in Edwardsville with the Rev. Milton Krevson officiating. Burial was in Sunset Hill Memorial Estates in Edwardsville.

Memorials may be made to Eden United Church of Christ or the American Heart Association.

Audney Green

AUDNEY L. (COLE) GREEN, 90, of Granite City, died at 12:10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, 1999, at Maryville Manor in Maryville.

She was born Feb. 6, 1909, in Naylor, Mo. Mrs. Green was a homemaker. She was a member of City Temple in Granite City and

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Alton woman running for Madison County coroner

By Kerry Smith
Staff writer

A longtime Alton resident and certified forensic expert announced her bid Thursday for the office of Madison County coroner.

Troy native and Democrat Patricia Earnshaw, 50, filed petitions Thursday with the Madison County Clerk's Office as a candidate to succeed retiring Coroner Dallas Burke. A licensed psychotherapist, Earnshaw said Thursday she would bring two professional expertises to the post if elected. The candidate made her announcement in the

lobby of Saint Clare's Hospital in Alton.

The coroner's office can and should be an important resource for both the law enforcement and medical communities," Earnshaw said. "I believe I am uniquely qualified to serve because of my dual background in both forensic investigation and in medicine."

If Earnshaw wins the election, she said she will be the only woman holding countywide office in Madison County.

The coroner's candidate possesses certified clinical criminal justice certification from the National Association of Forensic Counselors and has a mas-

"I believe I am uniquely qualified to serve because of my dual background in both forensic investigation and in medicine."

Patricia Earnshaw
Forensic expert

ter's in social psychology, along with a clinical social worker's license. Her resume includes profiling

instruction from retired FBI agents John Douglas and Roy Hazelwood.

Earnshaw's campaign platform includes a promise to reduce the number of unnecessary autopsies that are performed in Madison County.

"I've studied psychological autopsy techniques, a method for determining whether a death is a result of accident, suicide or murder," Earnshaw said. "This is an important technique I want to bring to the Madison County Coroner's Office. It can help guide the judicious use of autopsies, saving tax-

payer dollars and staff resources by identifying the cases which have the highest likelihood of being caused by foul play."

Earnshaw's husband, Dr. Charles Earnshaw, is a long-time internist in Alton. She has two grown children, Lori and Charlie.

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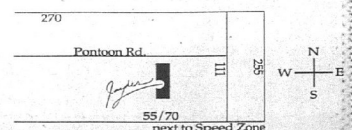
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Morning blaze destroys public housing unit

Continued from Page 1A

minor injuries and the families temporarily homeless. Granite City Mayor Ron Selph said the families most likely will be housed in another unit.

Granite City Fire Chief Keith Talley said they should be thankful to be alive. "It is truly amazing everybody escaped without being killed or seriously injured, especially at the time the fire occurred," Talley said. "Let me emphasize again that they were very, very lucky."

Residents of the unit have been identified as Belinda Shelton, 22, her daughter, Alicia Bennett, 9, and her son, Donald Williams, 5. Lanette Robertson, 25, Shelton's friend, was residing at the unit with her sons, Dillon Mayes, 3, and Randy Mayes, 4.

According to authorities, when firefighters arrived at 3408 Kirkpatrick Homes about 12:10 a.m., the scene was dramatic. The first floor was engulfed in flames and

"It is truly amazing everybody escaped without being killed or seriously injured, especially at the time the fire occurred."

Keith Talley
Granite City fire chief

was blanketed with thick black smoke as a police officer tried to enter the unit. He was driven back by intense heat.

Meanwhile, Diana Canada, Shelton's neighbor, was standing near the second-floor window, catching two children dropped to her about 12 feet by Shelton before Shelton slid down the brick wall toward a firefighter, who broke her fall. The two other children, along with Robertson, darted out the front door without being

burned. Fire officials intend to interview Dillon because he told them he started the fire. Officials will determine if the 3-year-old set the unit ablaze out of curiosity or accidentally.

In early September, the fire that gutted Granite City Carpet City was set by three children playing with matches.

The children and their parents were interviewed by fire officials, who deter-

mined that the fire was accidentally set. Afterward, the children were lectured on fire safety, shown pictures of

people injured in fires and were required to write a school essay on fire safety.

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Gifts donated during Christmas bash

Continued from Page 1A

Hall by Granite City Mayor Ron Selph, who said the 19th annual drive, combined with the holiday party, will make many underprivileged children happy this holiday season.

My staff donated a lot of

time and energy for this," Selph said. "The work was well worth it because it's going to bring joy to so many youngsters."

The party was at St. Gregory's Armenian Community Center. Several local restaurants donated food for the party. Selph said without the support of

the eateries, citizens, community leaders and businesses, the drive and party would not have been a success.

"I would like to thank everybody who participated this year," Selph said. "Their generosity and caring shows their commitment to children in our

community."

The event originated in 1986 through the efforts of the Ambassador Club, a group of local businessmen. At that time, it was invitation only. However, through the efforts of Selph, anyone in the community can now participate.

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Village grant allows hiring of 2 officers

Continued from Page 1A

Wallace said, the addition of the two officers will greatly benefit the department and the community.

"The grant will enable me to have the officers specifically address the causes and reduce the fear of crime and social disorder in our community through problem solving tactics and

community/ police partnerships," Wallace said.

The department stepped up community/ police partnership efforts during the summer when its bike patrol became operational in early June. At least twice a week, and on the weekends, two officers were required to patrol on two wheels, and not the customary four, to not only to prevent crime, but to become more acquainted with and more visible to the public.

"The grant will enable me to have the officers specifically address the causes and reduce the fear of crime."

Gary Wallace

Pontoon Beach police chief

ATTENTION Kmart SHOPPERS

The Kmart December 19, 1999 weekly ad circular, on the front page features the George Foreman 19.99 Compact and the 9.99 Family size grill. These items will not be available. Also, the advertised Medium George Foreman grill will not be available. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused our customers. Receipts will not be available.

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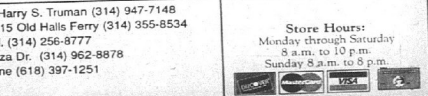
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Sales tax increase study urged

Continued from Page 1A

Papa is the second county official to mention a sales tax as a possible way to make a major shift in the way the county funds government. County Board Finance Committee Chairman Bill Little also floated the idea in presenting the annual budget at last month's regular meeting. Papa noted that the end of

the millennium brings a list of challenges for county government, including a list of physical needs, such as much more parking near the Madison County Courthouse, more courtroom space, and a new replacement facility for the Nursing Home and Shelter Care Home. Papa said the new sales tax would require a referendum for approval. "This new revenue source will need voter approval,

"We've got to do something."

Rudy Papa
Madison County Board chairman

and will require a very intensive public discussion of the uses to which the new monies will be put and what benefits the taxpayers will

receive," Papa said. Madison County Supervisor of Administration James Monday said it may take until August to put together a more specific proposal for discussion. Papa said after the board meeting that county officials must consider the sales tax because of the serious need for more parking and courthouse space. "We've got to do something," he said.

Actualize ideas to make dreams come true

A New You



Catherine Galasso

Best friends Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield decided they would like to be in the ice cream business. They took a correspondence course, developed their own recipes and in 1995 opened a 12-flavor ice cream parlor.

Today there are more than 90 Ben & Jerry's stores and sales average more than \$60 million annually. Decide what you want. You can make it happen. Bill Gates' of Microsoft, secret of success was taking action. "I was in the right place at the right time. I caught a vision of where the computer industry was going and I took action," he said. Madame Curie's idea turned

out to be radium. Colonel Sanders' was chicken. Success in the millions. All achievements had their beginning in an idea. They started with the motivation of determination—so begin now to act on your idea or concept. Give life to your goals and dreams. An idea is only as good as its execution. Success lies in those two little words, "Do it."

There are thousands of ideas around you every day. When I think of the vast variety of businesses, inventions and personalities I wonder, whose star will shine next? There are innovative, significant and exciting opportunities in our midst—all you have to do is envision it and then "do it."

Every bridge, house and skyscraper sprang from someone's imagination. Each car, airplane, train, and boat began as a vision. Grocery stores, ice cream parlors, hospitals and art galleries began from one person's efforts. Creativity, thoughts and visions help to make a vitally exciting world. Innovative ideas may come to you in the morning during breakfast or when you're listening to soothing music or taking a nature walk. Write down your ingenious ideas. I often think the inspiring ideas that come into my mind are God's thoughts

"An idea is as good as its execution. Success lies in those two little words, 'Do it.'"

transferred. I am willing to let Him use me and I think that is the secret. Be willing and put feet on your ideas. Walk them to the place that will promote them and don't give up. "The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord," God placed within each one of us treasures and talents. There are no limits to your unique and wondrous gifts. Don't be frightened. Many people spend their lives afraid to act on their ideas, afraid that someone might laugh at them. So what. Someone else won't laugh. They will congratulate you or say, "I wish I'd thought of that."

So never, ever let others rob you of your dreams, your goals, wondrous plans for the future. Let me repeat this powerful sentence, "Never let others rob you of your dreams, goals or wondrous plans for the future." Whatever you desire can be yours with per-

formance, persistence and motion.

Your creative imagination is stronger than you think. Do you have an idea, a vision, and an ideal that you enquire in your heart? Don't give up. Try it. You may be pleasantly surprised. Oliver Wendell Holmes once said, "Many ideas grow better when they are transplanted to another's mind." Talk your ideas over with a trusted friend.

Every great accomplishment was enlightened in the mind first as a creative idea. Stay motivated. When people are highly motivated, the impossible is easy to accomplish. Deep within is a power that astonishes. When put into action, with God's help, you will be unstoppable and can achieve all that you desire.

Catherine Galasso is a freelance columnist for the Suburban Journals. You may write to her at Suburban Journals, 174 Deer Tracks Trail, St. Louis, MO 63131 or by e-mail at westnews@primary.net. Her new book, "The Treasure of a New Year" can be obtained by sending a check or money order for \$12.95 plus \$3 postage and handling to CGV Enterprises, P.O. Box 2192, Branford, CT 06405.

Senior menus

Senior Service Plus
Granite City Township Hall
2060 Delmar Ave.
Granite City

MONDAY, Dec. 20
BBQ chicken, au gratin potatoes, green beans, wheat bread, tropical fruit
TUESDAY, Dec. 21
Cheese ham and noodles, tossed salad, cranberry juice, wheat bread, autoscotch pudding
WEDNESDAY, Dec. 22
Polish sausage with sauerkraut, mashed potatoes with gravy, wheat bread, fruit cocktail

THURSDAY, Dec. 23
Spaghetti with meat sauce, tossed salad, garlic sticks, applesauce
FRIDAY, Dec. 24
Center closed for Christmas holiday

DIET MENU

MONDAY, Dec. 20
Baked chicken, parsley potatoes, green beans, wheat bread, fruit cocktail
TUESDAY, Dec. 21
Beef and noodles, tossed salad, cranberry juice, wheat bread, vanilla pudding
WEDNESDAY, Dec. 22
Boneless ribs, mashed potatoes,

brussel sprouts, wheat bread, sliced pears
THURSDAY, Dec. 23
Spaghetti with meat sauce, tossed salad, garlic sticks, applesauce
FRIDAY, Dec. 24
Center closed for Christmas holiday

ACTIVITIES

MONDAY, Dec. 20
Bridge Club, 10 a.m. to noon
TUESDAY, Dec. 21
Line dancing, 9 to 11 a.m.; pinocle, 1 to 3 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, Dec. 22
THURSDAY, Dec. 23

Line dancing, 9 to 11 a.m.; tap dancing, 9 a.m. to noon; club bingo, 1 to 3 p.m.; Thursday, 1 to 3 p.m.
FRIDAY, Dec. 24
Center closed for Christmas holiday
Reservations should be made one day in advance. Make reservations by calling 877-4373. Seniors 60 and over are always welcome. Meals are partially funded through Southwestern Illinois Area Agency on Aging and the Illinois Department of Aging. The full cost of the meal is \$4; suggested donation for seniors is \$2 per meal. Please give what you can afford. All contributions are appreciated.

Milestones

Dec. 19 Birthdays
Dawn Staggs turns 19
Alexander Sedokh turns 6
Jimmy Turner turns 15
Jason Rainwater turns 18

Anniversaries
Westley and Billy Starks

Dec. 20 Birthdays
Laura Marshall turns 17
Betty Eichelberger turns 44
Yoshiko Thomas
Olivia Mangiaracino

Dec. 21 Birthdays
Jennifer Snoddy turns 16
John Sannes turns 59
Debbie Marshall turns 41

Anniversaries
Tim and Amy Robbins, 9 years

Dec. 22 Birthdays
Dovie Pinnon
Gail Johnson turns 91
Tony Turner Jr. turns 23

Anniversaries
Albert and Doris Downs, 32 years
George and Edna Woods

Dec. 23 Birthdays
Loretta Redfern
Robertta McClery III turns 13
Rita Rice
Tina McIntosh
Bonnie Gonzales

Anniversaries
Patrick and Doris McNeish, 22 years

Dec. 24 Birthdays
Omie Fariess
Jerry Grupas
Marilyn Durborow

Anniversaries:
Kenny and Becky Ship, 28 years

Dec. 25 Birthdays
Edward Nichols turns 81
Gene Robertson
Dorothy Daugherty
Hilary Siver turns 13
Stephanie Muller turns 23
Mark Guenther

To submit an item to Milestones or delete an entry, send a postcard to "Milestones" Granite City Journal, 219 N. Illinois, Belleville 62220. Please notify the paper if a person listed in Milestones has died or no longer wishes to be listed.

School menus

GRANITE CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT 9

MONDAY, Dec. 20
Breakfast: Breakfast burrito, mixed fruit, milk; Lunch: Pizza, corn, sliced peaches, milk
TUESDAY, Dec. 21
Breakfast: Cereal, toast and jelly, milk; Lunch: Chili with crackers, peanut butter sandwich, fresh celery and carrot sticks, apple wedges, milk
WEDNESDAY, Dec. 22
Breakfast: Waffles with syrup, blueberries, milk; Lunch: Sloppy Joe on buns with pickles, potato rounds, pineapple chunks, milk
THURSDAY, Dec. 23
No School - Winter break begins

FRIDAY, Dec. 24
No School - Christmas Eve

ST ELIZABETH SCHOOL
All meals \$1.50 includes choice of 1 percent chocolate or 2 percent white milk

MONDAY, Dec. 20
Pizza pockets, green beans, peaches
TUESDAY, Dec. 21
Sack Lunch, snacks and drinks sold
WEDNESDAY, Dec. 22
Christmas Party Day - Early dismissal
THURSDAY, Dec. 23
Christmas vacation begins
FRIDAY, Dec. 24
Christmas vacation

MADISON SCHOOL
DISTRICT 12

MONDAY, Dec. 20
Breakfast: Apple churro, juice and choice of milk; Lunch: Corn dog or cheeseburger on bun, oven wedges, corn, choice of milk
TUESDAY, Dec. 21
Breakfast: Bagels with cream cheese, juice and choice of milk; Lunch: Hamburger gravy or chicken nuggets, whipped potatoes, green beans, gelatin, choice of milk
WEDNESDAY, Dec. 22
No School - Christmas vacation
THURSDAY, Dec. 23
No School - Christmas vacation
FRIDAY, Dec. 24

No School - Christmas vacation

HOLY FAMILY
SCHOOL
Milk served with all meals

MONDAY, Dec. 20
Pizza, salad, corn, bread, pears
TUESDAY, Dec. 21
Sliced ham, mashed potatoes or sweet potatoes, green beans, roll, cake
WEDNESDAY, Dec. 22
Early Dismissal - No lunch
THURSDAY, Dec. 23
No School - Christmas vacation
FRIDAY, Dec. 24
No School - Christmas vacation



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Wed. & Sat. 7:30PM
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Fri. 12/31 New Year's Eve
Communion Service 6:30PM
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Holy Family Catholic Church
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Granite City, IL
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Christmas Eve Dec. 24 4:00PM & 10:00PM
New Year's Eve Dec. 31 4:00PM
Christmas Day Dec. 25 8:30AM & 10:30AM
New Year's Day Jan. 1 8:30AM & 10:30AM

By the numbers

Results from boys, girls prep basketball games inside

Sports

www.yourjournal.com

Leaders

Top performers in prep basketball

Page B3



Granite City's Dino Clifford (top) grapples Belleville West's Mike Ciabaton, who won 12-3. The Warriors still prevailed 44-23.

Warriors hold off West

24-0 start vaults Granite

By Rick Broome
Staff writer

Granite City used the first four weight classes to vault over Belleville West 44-23 Thursday. Sheldon Murphy (103 pounds), Steve Peach (112 pounds), Jake Triant (119 pounds), and Chad Wilson (125 pounds) all won by fall over their opponents to stake Granite City to a seemingly insurmountable 24-0 lead.

But West had its big guns waiting in the wings, and as it turned out, it was a Warriors defeat that set the home side up for victory.

Granite 130-pounder Richie

Carney went into his match with highly-regarded Maroons sophomore Joe Rujawitz just looking to hold on to some dignity.

The senior did that, and then some. He kept his shoulders off the rubber and Rujawitz at bay, and ended up with a 9-3 loss, which gave the visitors just three points.

"That was huge," coach Allen Kirgan said. "I think anytime you wrestle someone the caliber of Rujawitz you have to figure in a six-point deficit. Not only did he not get pinned, it was a regular decision. Those three points were like a win for us. That was huge."

Maroons Dusty Carpenter (135 pounds), Mike Ciabaton (140 pounds) and Derek Stoll

(145 pounds) won by decision, and Cory Ford (152 pounds) pinned Granite freshman Pat Fiegenbutz in 28 seconds, getting West within four, 24-20.

Kevin Sangiolo followed with a 9-4 decision over Larry Meyers and West trailed 24-23.

But Granite City senior George Kirgan beat Robert Ham in 4:06 at 171 pounds. Granite City's Bobby Grammer followed with a pin of Jerrod Dachsteiner in 2:58.

"I felt a lot better tonight than I have," Grammer said. "Earlier in the season I wasn't really focused. I was more trying to get pumped up and go real hard instead of using my technique. This time I came in focused on my match a lot more. I was able to focus on all of my technique and that is what got me through my match."

The Maroons still had a shot

to tie, but Granite sophomore Jake Janek beat Ben West 6-0 to put the Warriors up 38-23. Justin York finished the night off by pinning West's Ron Heagans.

"I think the first four weight classes really set the mood up," West coach Steve Garland said. "I think we saw that it really fired up the Granite kids and just kind of let us down."

The Warriors raised their season record to 10-1. "Our younger kids really came on," Al Kirgan said. "We only got pinned one time, and that really made a difference. Belleville West is a quality team. They have some marquee kids. They are good, they are tough, and they are hard-nosed. I think our coaches had the kids ready to wrestle. They came out ready, and they got the job done."

The Maroons fell to 2-3 on the season and 0-2 in the conference.

Familiar scenario sinks Warriors

Flyerettes bolt to 27-5 1st-quarter lead

By Rick Broome
Staff writer

East St. Louis picked the pockets of the Granite City girls and stole a 27-point victory from the host Warriors Wednesday night.

East outscored Granite 27-5 in the first quarter, collecting every loose ball and intercepting every errant pass, en route to a 60-33 victory.

"I think we came out and played good, aggressive defense," East Side coach Charles McDonald said. "It was something that we tried to emphasize. If you are going to do anything, you have to be able to play good defense."

The Warriors, meanwhile, still haven't solved their woes in the first period.

"We just come out and we don't seem to match the other teams' intensity," Granite City coach John Moad said. "We are not very good practice players, and until we become better practice players, we will suffer. We

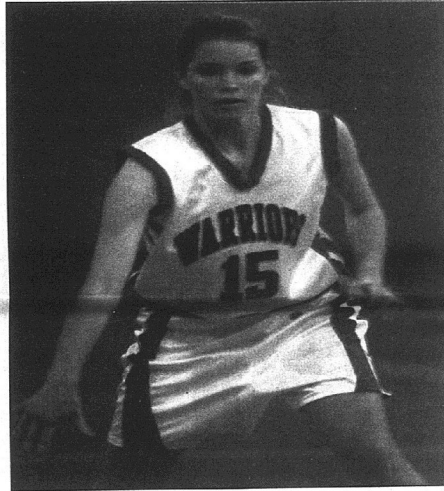
don't see this kind of intensity in practice, and we are going to struggle with it in games until we can start simulating it in practice."

"It takes us a quarter to get used to playing against that pressure. I don't know what we can do to make them better practice players. They have to want it as a competitive athlete, to get in there and work hard. We have preached that to them in the last few weeks. It's frustrating that we are not getting it done in practice. It's killing us."

In the final three quarters, the Warriors discovered defensive stability. They held the Flyers scoreless through the first 7:56 of the second quarter.

"I think defensively there was some intensity out there," Moad said. "We held that team to two points in the second quarter and they are never going to be held to two points in a quarter. Defensively, we played outstanding for three quarters. We mixed in a new offense and when we ran it, we had layups."

See WARRIORS, Page B5



Granite City sophomore Erin Tyler scored four points in a Southwestern Conference loss to East St. Louis.

Warriors upset Belleville East

Lancers go scoreless in 3rd quarter

By Scott Marion
Staff writer

Six days made a world of difference for the Granite City basketball team.

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

After a lethargic performance in a 65-45 loss to Belleville West on Dec. 11, the Warriors turned the tables and dominated visiting Belleville East en route to a 55-42 victory Friday night.

"We tried to be a different team than the one you saw against Belleville West, and we were," said Granite City coach John VanBuskirk, whose squad improved to 4-1 overall and 2-1 in the Southwestern Conference.

The young men weren't very happy with their performance last week. They worked hard this week in practice because they had something to prove to themselves.

Belleville East (7-2) was not pleased with its effort, however.

"We got outplayed in basically every aspect of the game, whether it was offense, defense or coaching."

Doug McCrory
Lancers coach

"We got outplayed in basically every aspect of the game, whether it was offense, defense or coaching," said Lancers coach Doug McCrory, whose team dropped to 1-1 in the SWC. "They had our number on everything we did. We just couldn't get on track."

East couldn't stop Granite

See GRANITE, Page B5

Penalties pile up as Illinois Warriors defeat Cahokia

Meszaros nets 3 points against Comanches

By Chris Waldvogel
Staff writer

Wednesday's Mississippi Valley Club Hockey Association skirmish between the Illinois Warriors and Cahokia erupted into a full-scale war in the third period.

The Comanches, who hadn't sent anyone into the penalty box in the first two periods, piled up 10 infractions in the final stanza. The Warriors, meanwhile, amassed eight of their own — five

in the third — before skating off with a 5-2 victory at home.

"It got a little rough out there," Warriors coach Paul Solberger said. "I think a lot of it was Cahokia getting their frustration out."

The Warriors took a 2-0 lead in the first period on goals from Luke Forrester and Bobby Meszaros.

Cahokia's Tony Knaup trimmed the lead to 2-1 early in the second period, but the Warriors struck just 13 seconds later on a goal by Dustin Wesley.

But Cahokia (2-5-0) slowly built up momentum as Eric Kharibian's heroics

in net fueled hopes for a comeback. Kharibian kept the game close, stopping Meszaros point blank on a two-on-one and later snagging John Stordahl's shot from the slot.

The Comanches, who allowed only three shots in the second, closed within 3-2 at the 5:01 mark as Jason Werner scored on the power play with an assist from Knaup.

"Their team showed a lot of resilience, they kept hammering away," Solberger said. "I thought we dominated early, but I give Cahokia credit, they didn't quit. They kept coming at us."

But the Warriors pulled away in the final frame as Brett Solberger's goal from Meszaros and John Stordahl pro-

vided a 4-2 advantage with 10:34 remaining.

"Bobby, John and Brett are the money line," Solberger said. "They score big goals and they spread the other team's defense out. They cycle the puck down low real well. We hit the open man in front of the net and bury it."

Meszaros stuck again on the power play to seal the victory.

"He's got a good shot," Solberger said. "He scored on some longer-range missiles. He just beat the goalie, who wasn't prepared, because his shots are so quick."

Although his team left with a win,

Solberger hopes the Warriors can overcome their second-period woes. The Warriors outshot Cahokia 14-9 in the first period and 9-1 in the third but allowed two goals on 10 shots in the second.

"That's been a hurdle for us to get over the past couple years," said Solberger, whose team improved to 6-2-0. "In the second period, we usually have a lead and we let down; but the third, we usually finish strong. This squad is an excellent third-period team."

The Warriors resume play Wednesday at home against Alton Marquette.

St. Louis Cardinals

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Sports

Girls basketball results

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Dec. 14

Althoff 83, Belleville West 55

PTS	FG	FT	3P	AST	STL	BLK	REB	PTS	FG	FT	3P	AST	STL	BLK	REB
Althoff	16	12	17	22	8	5	35	Belleville West	14	12	17	22	8	5	35
Casey Hunter	18	8	11	7.2	0	0	2	40.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sarah Butler	14	7	10	7.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jamie Luge	10	5	12	4.1	0	0	0	2.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lauren Thomas	8	3	5	3.3	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kristy Macdonald	4	1	2	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Julie Gustafson	3	1	2	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heather Anderson	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	53	25	40	34.3	0	0	16	16.7	4	9	44.4	13	8	10	23.0

Dec. 13

Collinsville 60, Edwardsville 38

PTS	FG	FT	3P	AST	STL	BLK	REB	PTS	FG	FT	3P	AST	STL	BLK	REB
Collinsville	16	12	17	22	8	5	35	Edwardsville	14	12	17	22	8	5	35
Katie Carroll	16	8	11	7.2	0	0	2	40.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lindsay Anderson	11	3	14	21.3	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Julie Brown	10	4	4	7.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jessica Stephens	8	3	4	4.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erin Beck	4	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kate Beck	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blackwood	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Michael Perce	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stephanie Frazer	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erin Gustafson	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kate Jolly	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lauren McGraw	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kim Schwab	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maissa Fitzsimon	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drewa Tomczak	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	38	14	20	30.0	0	0	10	23.3	38	14	20	30.0	0	0	10

Dec. 11

Collinsville 62, St. Charles (Mo.) West 30

PTS	FG	FT	3P	AST	STL	BLK	REB	PTS	FG	FT	3P	AST	STL	BLK	REB
Collinsville	21	11	20	10	8	5	35	St. Charles (Mo.) West	14	12	17	22	8	5	35
St. Charles (Mo.) West	14	12	17	22	8	5	35	Collinsville	21	11	20	10	8	5	35
Casey Hunter	18	8	11	7.2	0	0	2	40.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sarah Butler	14	7	10	7.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jamie Luge	10	5	12	4.1	0	0	0	2.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lauren Thomas	8	3	5	3.3	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kristy Macdonald	4	1	2	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Julie Gustafson	3	1	2	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heather Anderson	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	53	25	40	34.3	0	0	16	16.7	4	9	44.4	13	8	10	23.0

Dec. 15

East St. Louis 60, Granite City 33

PTS	FG	FT	3P	AST	STL	BLK	REB	PTS	FG	FT	3P	AST	STL	BLK	REB
East St. Louis	27	12	17	22	8	5	35	Granite City	14	12	17	22	8	5	35
Granite City	14	12	17	22	8	5	35	East St. Louis	27	12	17	22	8	5	35
Casey Hunter	18	8	11	7.2	0	0	2	40.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sarah Butler	14	7	10	7.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jamie Luge	10	5	12	4.1	0	0	0	2.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lauren Thomas	8	3	5	3.3	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kristy Macdonald	4	1	2	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Julie Gustafson	3	1	2	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heather Anderson	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	53	25	40	34.3	0	0	16	16.7	4	9	44.4	13	8	10	23.0

Boys basketball results

BOYS BASKETBALL

Dec. 11

Belleville West 65, Granite City 45

PTS	FG	FT	3P	AST	STL	BLK	REB	PTS	FG	FT	3P	AST	STL	BLK	REB
Belleville West	14	12	17	22	8	5	35	Granite City	14	12	17	22	8	5	35
Granite City	14	12	17	22	8	5	35	Belleville West	14	12	17	22	8	5	35
Casey Hunter	18	8	11	7.2	0	0	2	40.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sarah Butler	14	7	10	7.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jamie Luge	10	5	12	4.1	0	0	0	2.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lauren Thomas	8	3	5	3.3	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kristy Macdonald	4	1	2	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Julie Gustafson	3	1	2	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heather Anderson	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	53	25	40	34.3	0	0	16	16.7	4	9	44.4	13	8	10	23.0

Dec. 11

Naval Jr. ROTC 60, Collinsville 45

PTS	FG	FT	3P	AST	STL	BLK	REB	PTS	FG	FT	3P	AST	STL	BLK	REB
Naval Jr. ROTC	9	11	15	20	8	5	35	Collinsville	9	11	15	20	8	5	35
Collinsville	9	11	15	20	8	5	35	Naval Jr. ROTC	9	11	15	20	8	5	35
Casey Hunter	18	8	11	7.2	0	0	2	40.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sarah Butler	14	7	10	7.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jamie Luge	10	5	12	4.1	0	0	0	2.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lauren Thomas	8	3	5	3.3	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kristy Macdonald	4	1	2	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Julie Gustafson	3	1	2	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heather Anderson	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	53	25	40	34.3	0	0	16	16.7	4	9	44.4	13	8	10	23.0

Dec. 11

Collinsville 60, Edwardsville 38

PTS	FG	FT	3P	AST	STL	BLK	REB	PTS	FG	FT	3P	AST	STL	BLK	REB
Collinsville	16	12	17	22	8	5	35	Edwardsville	14	12	17	22	8	5	35
Edwardsville	14	12	17	22	8	5	35	Collinsville	16	12	17	22	8	5	35
Casey Hunter	18	8	11	7.2	0	0	2	40.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sarah Butler	14	7	10	7.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jamie Luge	10	5	12	4.1	0	0	0	2.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lauren Thomas	8	3	5	3.3	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kristy Macdonald	4	1	2	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Julie Gustafson	3	1	2	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heather Anderson	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	53	25	40	34.3	0	0	16	16.7	4	9	44.4	13	8	10	23.0



Althoff junior Kelly Pell scored 14 points as the Crusaders defeated Belleville West last week and claimed the city championship. The Crusaders beat Belleville east earlier this season.

Dec. 11

Granite City 60, Edwardsville 38

PTS	FG	FT	3P	AST	STL	BLK	REB	PTS	FG	FT	3P	AST	STL
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Standings

[illegible]

GIRLS BASKETBALL		
Cahokia Conference		
	League	Overall
Team	W-L	W-L
Carlyle	6-0	8-1
Breeze Central	3-0	9-1
Columbia	2-1	6-3

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Sports

Warriors suffer from familiar problem in Southwestern Conference defeat

Continued from Page B1

Senior center Sarah Luehmann ended with 10 points to lead the Granite attack.

"Sarah came in and played well again, that's two games in a row for her," Moad said. "She has played really well for us. We didn't know what to expect from her this year, and she has done everything we asked. We get the ball to her, and she gets great post position. I wouldn't want to know where we would be without her right now in the middle."

East St. Louis' first quarter was a far cry from the opening eight minutes against Edwardsville in the Keep Hoop Alive Tournament two weeks ago, in which the Eastenders put up an anemic three

points.

"We were able to convert our turnovers into points tonight," McDonald said. "For whatever reason, we just came out flat (against Edwardsville). It was like a different team that was on the court, but it was the same people. I don't know if it was because of the importance of that game."

Kristin King led East with 16 points, including eight in the first quarter. Lutesia Davis popped in 15.

Granite fell to 3-9 on the season. After a game with Civic Memorial Thursday, the Warriors host Cahokia on Monday. The starting time for that varsity game has been pushed up to 6:15 p.m. There will be no junior varsity action.

Granite City pulls upset vs. Lancers in conference tilt

Continued from Page B1

City senior forward Matt Pistorius, who scored a game-high 25 points. But the Warriors' best effort came on the defensive side, as they held the Lancers scoreless in the third quarter.

"The name of the game was our defense," VanBuskirk said. "We made some baskets, got into situations where we took care of the ball and we made our free throws. We didn't score a field goal in the fourth quarter, but we did a great job (18 of 22) from the line."

East jumped out to a 4-0 lead, but a basket by Brandon Smith out the Warriors ahead 14-7 with 1:12 to play in the first quarter. A basket at the buzzer by East's Kris Crosby cut Granite City's lead to 14-9 heading into the second period.

They played a matchup zone

(defense) and we kept turning the ball over against their pressure," McCrary said. "I don't know if we could see something like this coming, but we had a real bad showing."

The Lancers took a short-lived 21-20 lead on a basket by Mike Bujnak with 1:48 to play in the second quarter. But a shot at the buzzer by Granite City's Zack May from just inside the 3-point line gave the Warriors a 27-24 halftime lead.

Belleville East was very much in the game heading into the second half, but the third quarter was a nightmare for the Lancers. They were 0 for 9 from the field and 0 for 2 from the free throw line as Granite City extended its lead to 38-24.

"Not scoring one point in a quarter - how can you do that?" said McCrary, who answered his own question. "We rushed things,

we didn't run our offense, we turned the ball over and we forced shots."

"I don't have an explanation for that," VanBuskirk said of his team's ability to shut out East for eight minutes. "Last week, we couldn't get anything done and this week everything fell our way. I'm smiling and that's a good feeling."

May and Smith added 15 and 12 points, respectively, for the Warriors. But even the players who didn't score contributed to Granite City's victory.

"Justin Slay is out with a heart problem, so his cousin, Jon Slay, started for the first time tonight," VanBuskirk said. "His size helped us and he has a large wingspan. He did a good job on defense and he got some key defensive rebounds."

It was the second quarter of the Belleville East game when Justin asked out because he didn't feel well. His pulse was racing at 180. He's been wearing a heart monitor because the doctors are trying to find out what's wrong. He went to a specialist today, but we hope he'll be back soon."

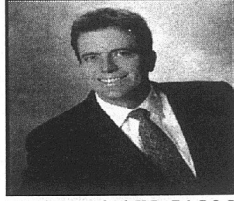
Mark Mueller led East with 10 points. Senior point guard Stetson Hairston, who was averaging 20 points per game, scored 6 of his 9 points in the fourth quarter.

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Holiday Gift & Entertainment Guide

Help children in need as you trim

Trimming the tree with beautiful ornaments is part of the holiday tradition in many homes. This holiday season, why not combine decorating your tree with the opportunity to lend a helping hand to children whose holidays may not always be so happy?

Lenox Brands and television personality Kathie Lee Gifford are extending the spirit of family and goodwill in a shared effort to raise money for Cassidy's Place, a haven for children with special needs and their families, through "Childhood," a holiday ornament available nationwide.

The specially designed

fine china ornament illustrates three children with a gold inscription that reads "Every Child is Entitled to A Childhood," the motto of Cassidy's Place. The gold inscription on the back of the ornament is a holiday sentiment from Kathie Lee Gifford, "May God Bless You and Your Family," with her signature in gold underneath.

"The holidays are a special time for me and my family," she said. "Through this ornament, people can share the holiday spirit by brightening the everyday lives of others."

The brilliantly colored holiday ornament was designed by Kathie Lee in conjunction with Lenox

design experts. Cassidy's Place houses comprehensive family support services, a kinship foster care and adoption program, and other family-oriented care projects.

"We are so pleased to be working with Kathie Lee Gifford on this special project," said Peter Cobuzzi, Lenox Inc. vice president, Brand Development. Lenox Brands, based in Lawrenceville, N.J., is the only full-line American table-top and giftware manufacturer.

The "Childhood" ornament is available nationwide. For a store near you, call 1-800-635-3669.

Family portrait preserves holiday memories

Looking for a gift that will always be remembered? Try a family portrait. According to a recent survey performed for the 14,000 member Professional Photographers of America, the holiday season ranks high on the list of occasions for a portrait.

With today's hectic lifestyles, the holidays may be your best opportunity for getting the family together. This makes it the perfect time to arrange for your family to be photographed.

Keep in mind that professional studios book up quickly for the holidays, so call early for an appointment. In addition, the Professional Photographers of America suggests you visit several studios to find

the photographer that is right for your family-one who offers the quality and style you desire.

Your photographer should take the time to talk to you about your family and their favorite activities, as well as offer suggestions on location, and coordinating clothing and colors. The photographer will use this information to create a photograph that tells your family's unique story.

Many families make their portraits more memorable by turning them into an event. One way of accomplishing this is traveling to your favorite location. Many professional photographers are willing to take holiday portraits on location. Popular choices for these portraits include local parks, your family's

place of worship and at a family member's home. Your completed family portrait can be enjoyed in many ways, whether you incorporate it as a wall portrait in your home or purchase copies of the final prints for the entire family. A holiday portrait will be a gift that will be treasured by your family members for years to come.

There are several sources for finding a photographer in your area. A friend's recommendation and the Better Business Bureau are good sources for finding a photographer. You can also contact Professional Photographers of America toll-free at 1-888-97-STORY (1-888-977-8679), Ext. 333 for a free brochure and a list of photographers in your area.

Prepare now for holiday travel

Failure to get your vehicle ready for winter's conditions can do more than just spoil your holiday travel.

In fact, a breakdown in winter could be deadly, warn

the experts at the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE), the nonprofit organization that administers national certification tests to automotive technicians.

ASE offers the following tips to help motorists prepare. Some of the tips are easy; others require a professional technician.

The Basics
Read the owner's manual and become familiar with the various components and systems. Follow the recommended service schedules.

Housekeeping
Wash and wax your vehicle to protect its finish. Inspect lights and bulbs. Replace worn wiper blades; keep plenty of washer fluid on hand; carry emergency gear—a shovel, a blanket, boots, snack food, a car phone, etc.

Engine Oil
The oil and filter should

be changed as specified in your manual.

Cooling System
The level, condition and concentration of the antifreeze should be checked periodically. The cooling system should be flushed and refilled as recommended. Let the engine cool off before working on the radiator. The tightness and condition of drive belts, clamps and hoses should be checked by a professional.

Engine Performance
Problems with rough idling, hard starts, stalling or diminished power should be corrected before cold weather sets in. Describe any changes in performance to the service manager or a qualified technician.

Heater/Defroster
To ensure comfort and safety, the heater and defroster must be in good working condition.

Tires
Rotate tires about every 5,000 miles. The air pressure should be checked once a month; let the tires "cool down" first. Examine tires for cuts and nicks, uneven wear and cupping. Check the spare, too. Note that

some of today's body styles and tire packages are not compatible with tire chains.

Brakes
Brakes should be inspected as recommended in your manual, or sooner if you notice pulsations, grabbing, noises or longer stopping distances.

Professional Technicians
If you are not a do-it-yourselfer, look for repair facilities that employ ASE-certified automotive technicians.

For a free brochure with winter maintenance tips, send a self-addressed, stamped business-sized envelope to: ASE Winter Brochure, Dept. NU-798, 13506 Dulles Technology Drive, Suite 2, Herndon, VA 20171-3421.

ASE was founded in 1972 as a nonprofit, independent organization dedicated to improving the quality of automotive service and repair through the voluntary testing and certification of automotive technicians. ASE-certified technicians wear blue-and-white ASE shoulder insignia and carry credentials listing their exact areas(s) of certification. Their employers often display the blue-and-white

Use technology to enhance, personalize gift giving

Are you having trouble finding the "perfect gift" for that special person who has everything? What you may not realize is that you have

a creative resource for gift giving right at your fingertips—your own computer and printer. Creating the perfect gift for any occasion can be done easily from the comfort of your own home. With a little time and imagination, anybody can take advantage of their high-tech tools (PC's, printers, scanners, digital cameras and special papers) to simplify and personalize creative projects and gifts.

Heightened awareness for the myriad uses of technology to simplify and personalize gift giving couldn't come at a better time. According to the National Craft Association, today's commercially produced, mass-marketed gift items are driving more people back to creating and giving their own hand-made gifts.

Beautiful and practical items can be crafted using home computer equipment and printing supplies—the possibilities are limitless:

Create colorful, customized projects such as gift tags, greeting cards and family newsletters.

Create fun or special gifts to wear or use in the home.

Make an apron or hat for the gourmet chef in the family.

Design a sweatshirt for Grandma featuring photos of the grandkids.

Create a beautiful table runner and matching napkins for entertaining.

Design a charming quilt for a newborn baby.

Hewlett-Packard makes it easy to create these special gifts with its HP Iron On T-Shirt Transfers.

Select a favorite photograph, clip art or logo to place on the fabric, scan the chosen image into your computer and print it out on the transfers.

Home computer equipment and printing supplies—the possibilities are limitless:

Create colorful, customized projects such as gift tags, greeting cards and family newsletters.

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Spend quality time together during holidays

With all the day-to-day hustle and bustle, it sometimes seems impossible for parents and kids to get beyond the necessary conversations of "Did you brush your teeth?" and "Is your homework done?" Famed toy

experts Joanne Oppenheim, both busy parents themselves, understand the challenges and the importance of finding playtime with children. As a result, they've developed a "Top 10" list of toys to help busy moms and dads bond with their kids.

The Oppenheims, co-founders of the independent research organization Oppenheim Toy Portfolio, believe that finding playful ways to connect with your kids is more than just fun. "After a long day at school and work, it's nice for parents and children to have a way to unwind," says Stephanie Oppenheim. "A board game that's quick and easy or a craft project creates great opportunities to play and learn together."

Top 10 Together List
The Oppenheims' top 10 toys picks to help moms and dads bond with their children are:

1. Goodnight Moon

Game (Briarpatch)—Scenes from this classic book are now used for a board game that's a great choice for developing language and visual skills. Children take turns picking and matching cards with pictures on their lotto-style playing boards. For children ages 2 1/2 to 6.

2. FeltKidds Interactive Books (Learning Curve)—Great books with movable felt figures for expanding a child's language and original storytelling skills.

3. Geosafari Talking Globe Jr. (Educational Insights)—Parents can help kids ages seven and up learn the names of states, capitals, and other details with this easy-to-read, interactive globe.

4. National Geographic: My World Quilt (Curiosity Kit)—Kids can create their own quilt by drawing pictures onto preprinted panels with headings such as "This is my family." The panels are then ironed and sewn together. For children ages seven and up (with adult supervision).

5. Handpainted Piggy Bank (Creativity for Kids)—A chubby little white piggy bank comes ready to paint with spots, hearts, or flowers. Dry for 24 hours then bake in a regular oven for a

permanent finish. Penny pinchers will love this one. The bank also has a removable plug for emptying. Adult supervision with baking. For children ages seven and up.

6. Lego Mindstorms (Lego)—This interactive toy integrates computers, robotics and construction sets allowing kids to build their own programmable robots. This toy is one of the most significant breakthroughs in children's computing—it's truly a 21st century plaything. For children ages eleven and up.

7. Rokenbok Expandable RC Building System (Rokenbok)—An open-ended system for multiple players that features remote control trucks that load and unload marbles from a motorized conveyor belt, and up and down ramps. For children ages six and up.

8. SuperZoom Balls (Curiosity Kits)—Family science projects just got better with crystals that change into solid, bouncable materials in just three minutes when water is added. For children ages six and up.

9. Statue Of Liberty Puzzle (Frank Schaffer)—You'll be impressed with the gigantic 20" X 44" tall illustration of Lady Liberty that

grows out of this 100-piece Giant floor puzzle. Not simple, but a fun project for the entire family. For children ages six and up.

10. Kuba (Patch Products)—A handsome and challenging marble game. The object is to capture seven of the red marbles by pushing them off of the board with the black or white marbles. For children ages ten and up.

To make life even easier for busy parents this holiday shopping season, the Oppenheims have once again partnered with Energizer brand batteries to provide a wealth of helpful holiday hints, including:

A Free Toys With Play Power Brochure contains everything from the hottest toys for 1999 to gifts for under \$20 to the best battery-operated toys. The brochure includes highlights from the Oppenheim's annual book, Oppenheim Toy Portfolio 1999 Edition: The Best Toys, Books, Video, Music And Software For Kids. To order a free copy of the brochure, write to: Toys with Play Power, 15 Nantucket Lane, St. Louis, MO 63132, or call 1-800-KIDS-450.

Free Holiday Toyline-1-800-KIDS-450: consumers can hear recommendations on the best holiday toys.

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By Tom Strongman

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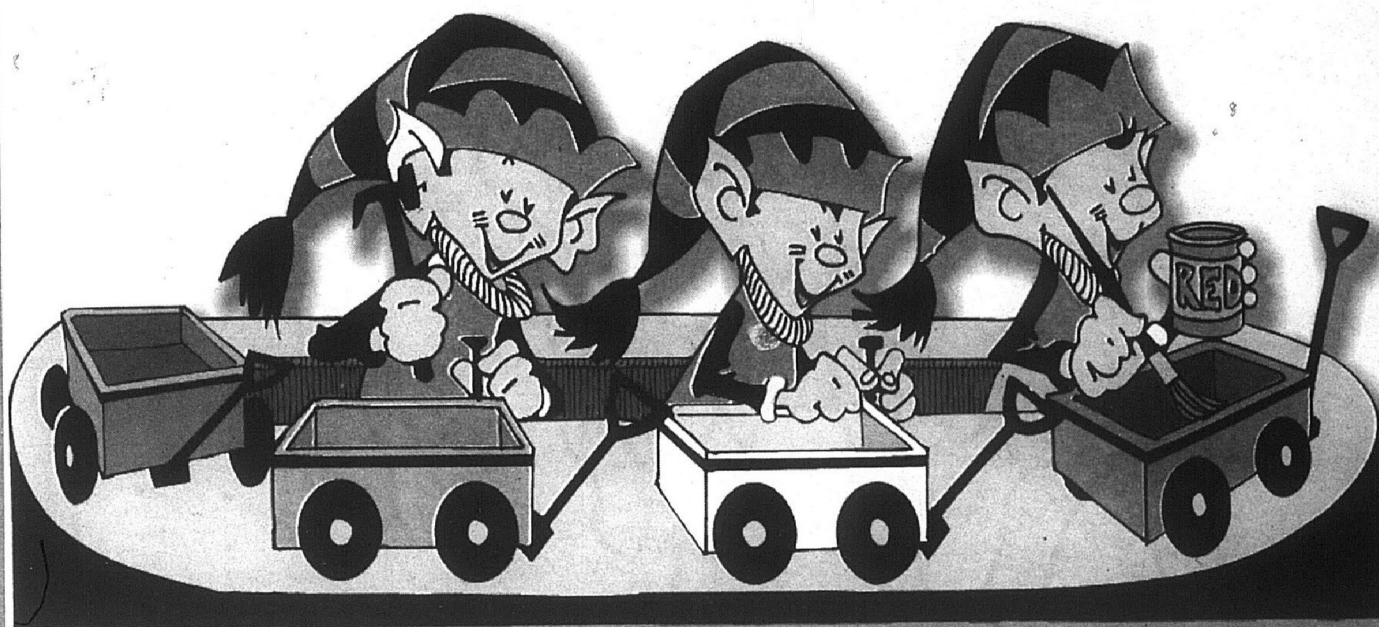
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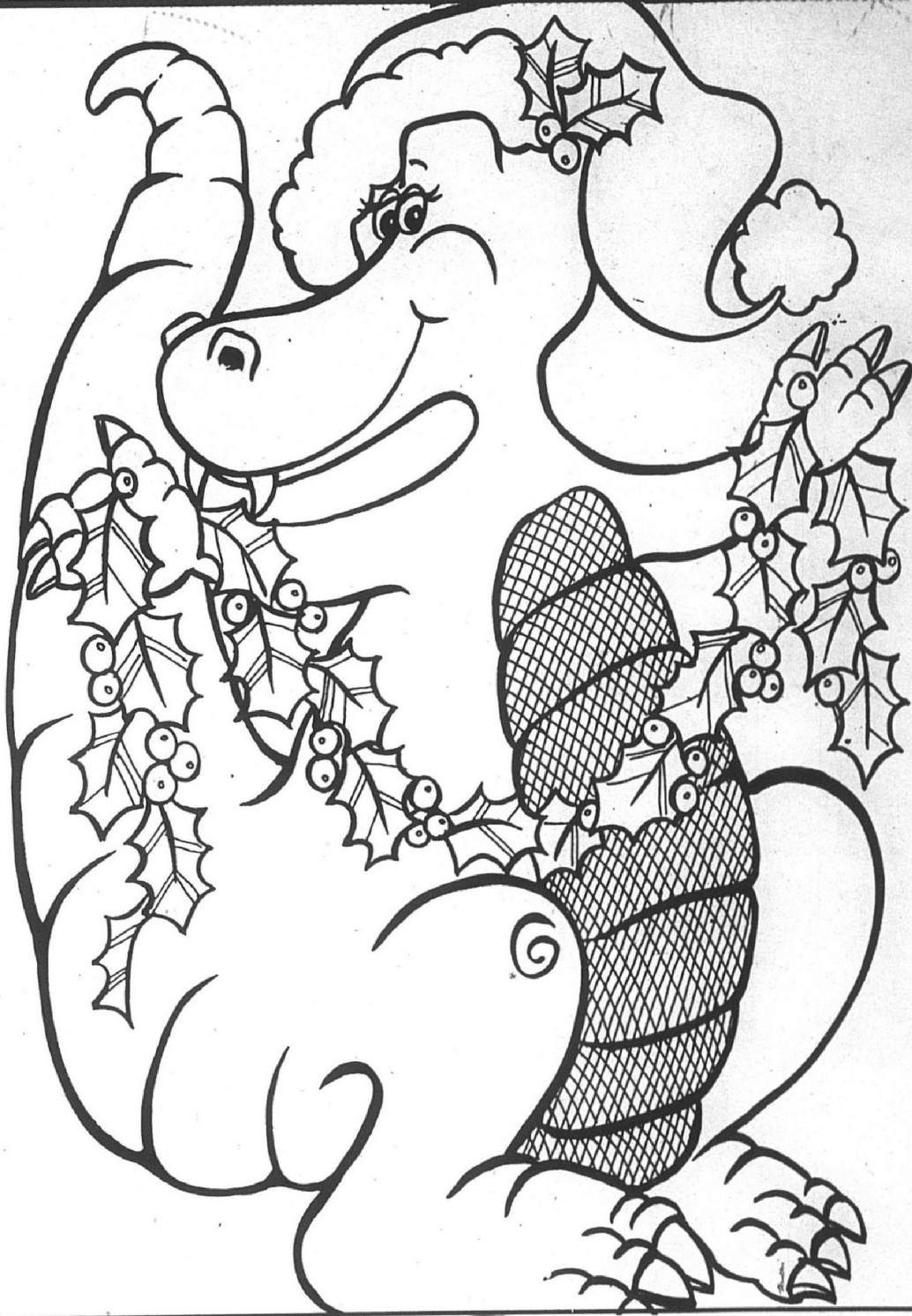
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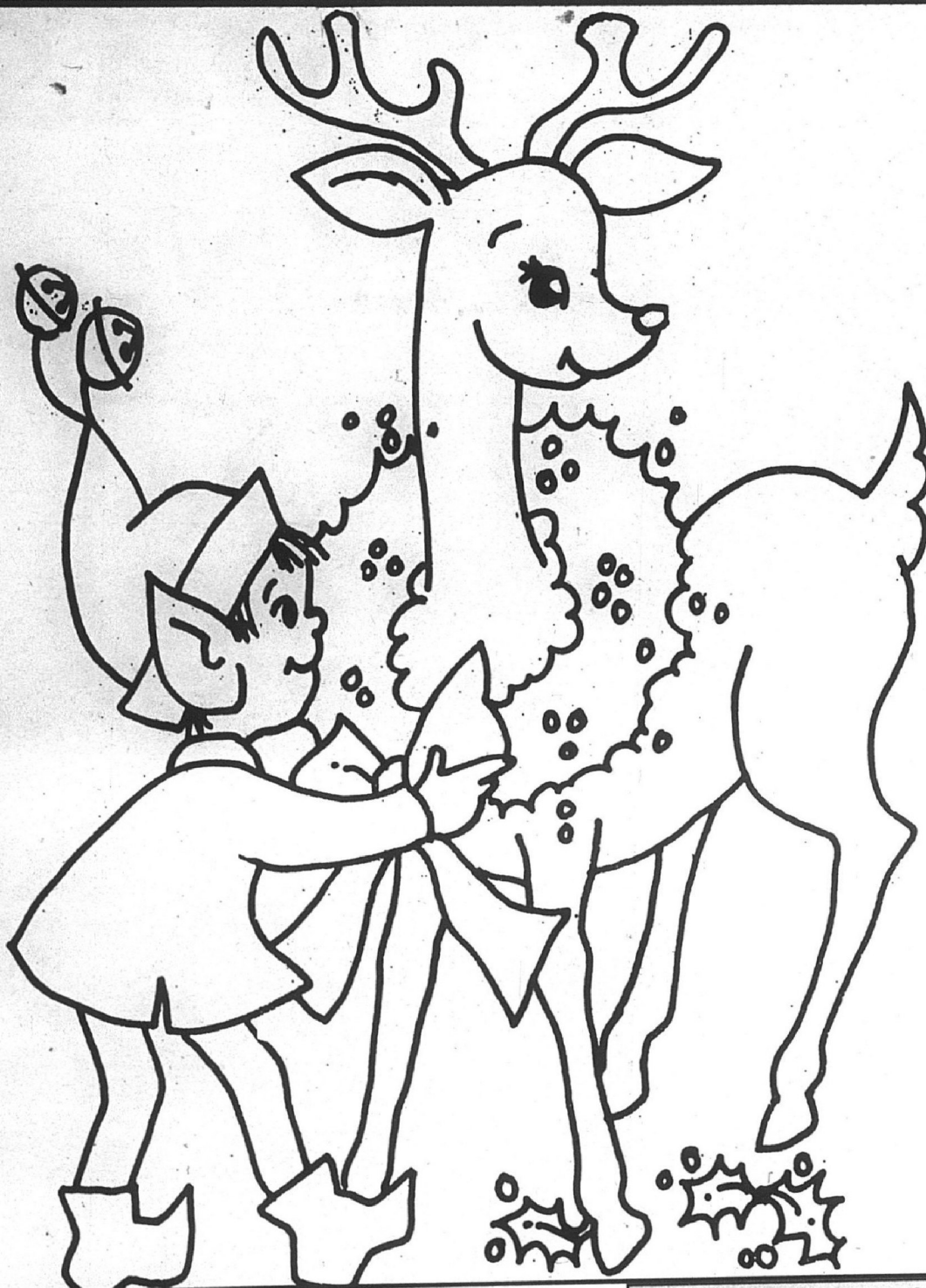
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